

NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE



**OVERSIGHT MEETING-
RIETFONTĒIN**

Portfolio Committee On Agriculture, 9 October 2009

10/9/2009

Hon. Dodo Baloyi (Chairperson)

Portfolio Committee on Agriculture

Oversight Meeting Report –, Portfolio Committee, DACERD, Land Reform, Kopano Community Authority,
Rietfontein Committee, Monamaladi Committee.

North West Provincial Legislature

Oversight Report of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Rural Development (ACERD)

1. Introduction

The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Rural Development held an oversight meeting in Rietfontein on the 09th October 2009. The purpose of the oversight meeting was a fact finding mission on problems of the land between two communities, namely Rietfontein and Monamaladi Communities. The latter was convened after the representatives of the other community (Rietfontein) approached the Portfolio Committee to intervene.

The following Hon. Members and other Stakeholders attended the meeting:-

1. Hon. Auchalie Mothupi
2. Hon. Paul Sebegoe
3. Hon. Mosetsanagape Mokomele-Mothibi
4. Hon. Patrick Pelele
5. Hon. Victor Keswa
6. Hon. S.P. Motswenyane

*Hon. Members of The North West
Provincial Legislature*

Department of Agriculture: - Mr. M.J. Molefe

Mr. W.J. Ratshikana

Department of Rural Development and Land Reform: - Ms. Paula Mongae

Mr. M.E. Mokawane

Mr. M. Mahura

10 Committee Members of Monamaladi – Community Property Association (CPA)

09 Committee Members of Rietfontein-

03 Members of Kopano Community Authority (KCA) – Mediators

3 Support staff and 1 Researcher of the North West Provincial Legislature

2. Background

During the times of apartheid government, Black people were relocated from their original places by the then apartheid law and legislation hence the Monamaladi community was moved from their place to reside in Rietfontein currently known as Bethel. It is made up of approximately 1300 hectors of land.

3. Objectives

- The objective of the oversight meeting was to find facts and establish who owns the disputed land in order to adequately address the matter fairly.
- The Portfolio Committee and stakeholders wanted to hear both sides in order to come up with resolutions where possible.

4. Rietfontein Committee

During 1962, Rietfontein residents were approached and requested to accommodate the communities of Monamaladi during their dilemmas of being moved from their land by the apartheid government. There were about 18 villages surrounding Rietfontein in those times. They formed one community until the dawn of democratic government wherein the affected communities were told to reclaim their land. Monamaladi community claimed their land and was given back to them by the former Premier of the North West Province (Hon. E. Molewa). The clashes between these two communities started in 2003 when the crisis of the land for agricultural production was encountered and 5 people were bound to share the land. They approached the Land Reform and requested that hence the Monamaladi people have been given their land back, they would also like to have their land back in order for them to use it for agricultural production or be compensated. However, their request was declined and told that they do not use the land even though they have documents that proofs that the land belongs to them.

The Concerns by Rietfontein community was that Monamaladi Community is benefiting in both sites as they have been compensated with approximately R13.8 million and have been given their land back while at the same time still resides in Rietfontein and expressed that they feel rejected and marginalized by the government. The major concern is the land for agricultural production as they have no land and depend only on their back yards. They request the government to allocate land for them to sustain their families and move Monamaladi Community back to their original land.

5. Monamaladi Committee

Monamaladi community first acknowledged that they were moved from their original place by the apartheid government and when they arrived in Rietfontein, there were only 10 families around the area. They expressed that only those 10 families have the right to claim the land to be theirs. However, they also acknowledged that they reclaimed their land from Land Reform and they got the land back even though it is not possible for them to move back to Monamaladi as they have build their houses in Rietfontein and therefore they will not afford to build other houses in Monamaladi.

6. Kopano Community Authority (KCA)

Kopano Community Authority was approached to mediate between the two communities and encourage them to talk freely, explain their point of view, find common ground and come up with way a forward without a fight. The latter (KCA) encouraged Rietfontein community currently known as Bethel to approach Land Affairs and reclaim their land. However, when the community representatives arrived at the department, they were told disappointing news that the land has been given to Monamaladi Community. They did not seem to work as the battle continues and has potential to cause conflict.

7. Responses (Land Reform)

The department of Land Affairs (Land Reform and Rural Development) with regard to the stated issues by both communities was that, during apartheid government, the communities were moved from their original land by those who were in high authority. Monamaladi Community forms part of those who were relocated and moved from their original land to Rietfontein which is known as Bethel. The democratic government in an

effort to redistribute the land, consulted the communities and asked them to reclaim their land hence Monamaladi approached the department with regard to the latter. The department clarified that it will not be possible to force Monamaladi Community to move back as they are protected by the law for occupying the land in question.

8. Recommendations

- ❖ The Portfolio Committee should accelerate the process of dispute settlement in a negotiated and rational manner.
- ❖ The Portfolio Committee should consult with all the relevant stakeholders to address and treat this issue with a high importance.

9. Conclusion (Public Meeting)

In conclusion, the Portfolio Committee concluded that it is the desire of all the parties concerned that a settlement be arrived at, which would as far as possible ensure a spirit of peace, unity and goodwill in the community. In achieving this settlement, it was agreed that the matter will be deliberated with all the stakeholders concerned and the feedback would be given to the communities in the next meeting.

Signed by

Date: 09 October 2009



Hon. Dodo Baloyi (Acting Chief Whip)
Chairperson: Agriculture, Conservation, Environment
and Rural Development